

Mark my words!

As part of the 'Thy Kingdom Come' global wave or prayer from Ascension to Pentecost this year, members of Easingwold Parish Church and guests undertook to read the whole of St Mark's Gospel in sections during the evening of 17th May.



The reading took about two hours, including a brief interval for tea and it proved to be an inspiring event, as the different voices really brought the scripture to life, each in their own way. Vicar of Easingwold the Revd Margaret Young said it was "A rare opportunity to hear the whole of a Gospel in one session."

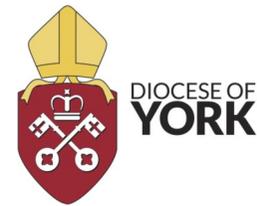
A slice of the action...



The Royal Wedding of Meghan Markle to Prince Harry coincided with the last-but-one day of 'Thy Kingdom Come', the Cup Final and with the Archbishop's Mission to the Deanery of York.

Many churches held open events on the wonderfully-sunny day to invite friends and neighbours to watch the two televised events on big screens.

At the 'Match of the Day' event at Holy Trinity Church, Heworth, Archbishop Sentamu was invited to slice a celebratory wedding cake to be handed around before the football started, and he called in reinforcements from two local school choirs who had just serenaded an enthusiastic audience.



York's Dean to be Bristol's Bishop

The current Dean of York, the Very Revd Vivienne Faull, is to be the 57th Bishop of Bristol.

Speaking in Bristol following the 15th May announcement, Viv said: "It was 24 years ago that Bristol was the first diocese to ordain women as priests, and I want the Diocese to continue to show that pioneering courage.

"I look forward to leading a church that shows the love of Christ to everyone, wherever they are."

Ordained priest in 1994, Viv became the first woman to lead a Church of England Cathedral as Provost and then Dean of Leicester in 2000. In 2012, she was appointed Dean of York.

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, said, "I rejoice with the Diocese of Bristol that Her Majesty the Queen has accepted the nomination of the Dean of York, the Very Revd Vivienne Faull, to be the 57th Bishop of Bristol.

"Dean Faull leads by following Jesus' way with insight and oversight, with a readiness to be led as well as to lead.

"She has been a great Dean for York, taking risks for the Kingdom of God, for example



persuading the Dean and Chapter to put on the Mystery Plays inside the Minster.

She has made the Minster a great home of hospitality, worship and friendliness. A comment I will never forget was made by the Head of one of the Minster's biggest departments who had been prepared for confirmation. I asked "Why confirmation now?" and the reply came back with a beaming smile, "Because the Dean has, and is, making God credible and believable".

Viv will be consecrated Bishop at a service at St Paul's Cathedral on 3 July and installed as Bishop of Bristol at Bristol Cathedral in the autumn.

www.bristol.anglican.org

To the Saints of the Diocese of York

The Bishop of Hull,
Alison White, writes:

God sometimes opens doors for us and invites us in towards the heart of the Gospel and there the Scriptures show us Jesus, at home with people in poverty.

The church is already present and engaged but we are being given an opportunity to work on reaching more people and helping them grow as disciples.

Did you know that one in three people in our Diocese live in poverty? 90 of our parishes are classified as being in the top 20% of those places in England with multiple deprivation to contend with. They are urban and coastal places as well as all the hidden poverty in rural areas.

There is a 'web of poverty' trapping people in a poverty of resources, relationships or identity. We believe that there is also a network of grace and the hope of transformation and we want to grow that!

The group working on this part of the 'Reach' dimension of the Diocesan strategy spent time listening to people who live and minister in areas of deprivation to discover what they long for. How can we translate this into actions that will allow all God's people to benefit from the insights and experience of those of us living in poverty and sharing the love of God so that more people can become disciples?



Three interlinked proposals have emerged that could help make a difference:

- + **Churches as community hubs.** This already happens here and there, offering safe places of hospitality and welcome, working in partnership with supporting charities or agencies. We need to be present and accessible.
- + **Community 'chaplains',** lay, local, community leaders, given confidence to be out there where people spend their time, commissioned and paid for the time they give.
- + **Community leaders.** People experiencing poverty to be leaders in their own communities. This would lead to re-imagining the shape of ministry in deprived communities and the way the learning might be offered and shared.

There is lots of detail behind all this and lots of work ahead!

We want to be part of what God is doing. Jesus says 'Blessed are you poor, yours is the kingdom of God' (Lk 6:20)

+ Alison



The ten days of 'Thy Kingdom Come', the global wave of prayer from Ascension to Pentecost this year, embraced the Archbishop's Deanery Mission weekends in Beverley and York.

Pictured from top:

- Archbishop Sentamu shares his own faith story over a bring-and-share lunch in Walkington Village Hall.
- Leaders and members of St Michael-le-Belfrey, York, pray over the Archbishop at a Men's Breakfast held in the Belfrey Hall.
- Tom Holmes and the Belfrey Music team lead worship in York Minster at the Beacon Event on the evening of Pentecost Sunday, 20th May.
- The Archbishop speaks about the coming of the Holy Spirit.

www.thykingdomcome.global

Have your Say and Pray - prayer poll in Fulford

Passers-by, visitors and locals in Fulford, York, were given a vote to guide how prayers should be focused on local issues at St Oswald's Parish Church.

Members of the public were invited into a 'Polling Station' each day for a week at the church gate, with a genuine voting booth loaned by City of York Council, to make their mark on a ballot paper listing seven areas of concern; Loneliness, Teenagers, Road Safety, Church & Community side by side, Isolation, Connections within Community and Poverty.

'Voters' were asked to identify three subjects of greatest concern to them.

Vicar of Fulford the Revd Terence McDonough said, "These were concerns identified following on from a community survey commissioned by the church.

"We offered voters a prayer leaflet to take away with them."

The voting slips were then used in the church's evening prayers at the end of each day during the 'Thy Kingdom Come' international wave of prayer from the Feast of the Ascension (10 May) to the Feast of Pentecost (20 May) this year.

About 350 people voted over the five days, (around 70 a day). Some people wouldn't vote but stopped to talk anyway.

"We had some really good conversations," said Terence, "some up to twenty minutes or so.



"Three or four people who have just moved into the parish said they're going to start coming to church, and one who asked to know more about Jesus has already joined one of our home groups.

"Our folk who volunteered really enjoyed and surprised themselves - the Bishop of Selby joined us on Friday morning too."

The top three local community issues for prayer and action identified in the poll were (1) Loneliness, (2) Road Safety (including pollution) and (3) Connections Within the Community. These will feature in meetings to be arranged with local stakeholders to help form the church's action plans and to share what contribution it can make.

www.stoswalds.church



This month's Q&A about our shared journey to achieve our goals

WHAT IS THE 'BIG THOUGHT' THAT PROVIDES THE ANCHOR POINT FOR OUR STRATEGY?

In one word - Growth. Of course, that doesn't do it justice. Our vision captures other key points: 'Generous Churches making and nurturing Disciples...to build up the Body of Christ to grow in Christ-likeness, Commitment, Partnership, Influence and Numbers'.

This aim of Growth - in numbers of disciples and depth of discipleship - has been at the heart of the Archbishop's Mission Weekends in every Deanery. It's why participation in 'Leading your Church into Growth' is encouraged. We are determined not to stay still, still less shrink. We will step out ambitiously, in faith, finding ways to reach people and grow God's Kingdom.

As Bishop Paul has said, this is "a movement of the whole diocese together in joy and hope, investing time, money and work now to build up God's church for the future". Ultimately our strategy is part of our response to Christ's commission to us, to 'go and make disciples'.

Generous churches making & nurturing disciples

Seven New Priests ordained



Pictured above: Sunday 27th May saw the Archbishop ordain seven Deacons to the Priesthood in York Minster (details last month).

Many more pictures at www.flickr.com/photos/dioceseforyork

Ordination of Deacons, Sunday 1st July

As this report goes to press, the list of those to be ordained Deacon by Archbishop Sentamu on Sunday 1st July at a service beginning at 10.00am in York Minster has yet to be confirmed.

A full report will follow next month of who they are, how they came to know of God's call and where in the Diocese of York they will serve.

Please hold all those ordained this spring in your prayers.

Readers ordained Deacon

In September 2017, following his 2016 Pilgrimage through the Diocese of York, Archbishop Sentamu invited Readers serving here to consider whether their ministry was in fact more like that of a Deacon, and so to begin exploring ordination to the Diaconate.

"The ordinal describes a Deacon's role as 'to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed, as agents of God's purposes of love... serving the community in which they are set, bringing to the church the needs and hopes of all the people.'"

The Archbishop ordained the first two serving Readers to be accepted for the Diaconate under this scheme on the 11th April at St Matthew's Church, Hutton Buscel (between Pickering and Scarborough):



Kingsley Boulton served as a Reader for 35 years, initially at St Olave's, York, and more recently across the York City Centre group of churches. He retired from his work as a librarian at the University of York two years ago. "For the future I see an extension of my current pastoral ministry and a greater involvement and presence in the community. I have already become very aware that the clerical collar makes me a much more visible representative of the Church as I walk around the city centre, with the challenges and opportunities that brings."

Pat Wood came to faith at the age of 40 and became a Reader in 2011, serving in the Upper Derwent group of churches having moved there in 1992 to work as a carer. "The possibility of ordination seemed to have passed me by after a stretch in hospital and I concentrated my efforts on what turned out to be (according to the Archbishop's letter) a Diaconal Ministry - school assemblies, messy church, food banks, shoebox appeal, fellowship groups etc."